countries were invited and had one to one meetings with Indian manufacturers of capital machinery.

Under Focus Africa Programme, they are planning to hold Indiatech exhibitions in Ethiopia and South Africa for projecting the Indian capabilities in the field of capital machinery and project exports.

Uniform grain procurement policy

†2397.SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received a suggestion regarding formulation of a uniform grain procurement policy;

(b) if so, Government's, reaction thereto; and

(c) by when a final decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM-RAJU): (a) The present policy of Minimum Support Prices and procurement of Fair Average Quality standard of food grains is being implemented with the help of the State Governments uniformly in all States which have potential for procurement.

The High Level Committee constituted to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy has also recommended that the MSP Policy should continue with an immediate correction.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Liquidation of surplus foodgrains

2398. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Government have been able to liquidate surplus foodgrains stocks through exports and food assistance to other countries during the last year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the problems in increasing the quantum of export and food assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) 57.93 lakh MTs of foodgrains had been lifted for export/ humanitarian assistance from the Central Pool during 2001-02.

The Government has recently decided to enter into counter-trade and / or extend commodity assistance in the form of foodgrains to other countries on terms to be decided on a case-to-case basis.

Export of foodgrains to Iraq

2399. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether foodgrains were exported to Iraq recently and that country has raised certain issues; if so, the details thereof and whether these issues have since been resolved;

(b) which are the countries to whom foodgrains were exported during the last one year, quantity-wise and the amount earned in foreign exchange;

(c) whether the country has also imported any type of foodgrains from other countries during the above period;

(d) if so, the details thereof, togetherwith reasons therefore; and

(e) the amount paid to those countries in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) In the current year rice has been exported to Iraq. There has been no controversy.

(b) Foodgrains are offered to the exporters from the Central Pool and are not exported by the Government. During 2001-02, nearly 57.92 lakh metric tonnes were lifted for the purpose.

(c) No import of foodgrains has taken place on Government account.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.